



TRIPwire

Technical Resource for Incident Prevention



WEEKLY THREAT REVIEW | 9 JULY 2014

OVERVIEW

In this issue of the Weekly Threat Review, **TRIPwire** reports on a video released by the Islamic State in which Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group's leader, makes a speech at a mosque in Mosul, Iraq. It is the first time Abu Bakr has appeared in a video. For more information about the speech, please see Page 3.

Also this week, the Islamic State launched a new English-language magazine, *Dabiq*. The magazine will focus on monotheism, methodology, migration to the battle field, jihad, and the Muslim community. The first issue highlights the Islamic State's establishment of the Islamic Caliphate. For additional details, please see Page 4.

Finally, a Russian jihadist group released two additional installments in its instructional video series, "*Lessons on Jihad for New Recruits*." The most recent videos address organizational structure and map reading. For further information, please see Page 5. For a review of the first installment in the series, please see the 2 July 2014 Weekly Threat Review.



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Security Increased at U.K. Airports in Response to U.S. Warning (English)

British airports are increasing security after the U.S. warned that two terror groups could be working together on a bomb that would pass undetected through existing security measures.

The changes were announced after U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson ordered increased security at foreign airports with direct flights to the U.S. The increased security is reportedly the result of intelligence indicating that groups in Yemen and Syria had joined forces to plot an attack. In a statement, Johnson said he had directed the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to take extra security measures to include closer inspection of personal electronics and footwear.



Manchester Airport
Source: Mirror

Bomb-makers from the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, and Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are believed to be working together to develop explosives that could potentially evade detection by current airport security screening systems. Officials are primarily concerned that foreign fighters who spent time with Islamic rebel factions could detonate bombs on U.S.- or European-bound airplanes.

In a related story, Nasser Muthana, a British jihadi, posted online a photo of homemade bombs and warned the U.K. government that he may return to the country with his new skills.

ISIS Leader Makes Appearance in Mosul (Arabic/English)

On 5 July 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State (IS), appeared in a video for the first time, delivering a sermon at the Grand Mosque of Al-Nuri in Mosul, Iraq. The 21-minute video was produced by the group's al-Furqan Media Foundation and was posted on the Twitter account of another Islamic State media unit, al-Itisaam, one day after its recording. It was also available on YouTube. The Islamic State, which had recently declared itself a Caliphate, has appointed Abu Bakr as the new Caliph. The video shows Abu Bakr delivering his sermon before the congregation and leading them in prayer.



ISIS Leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
Source: Al Arabiya



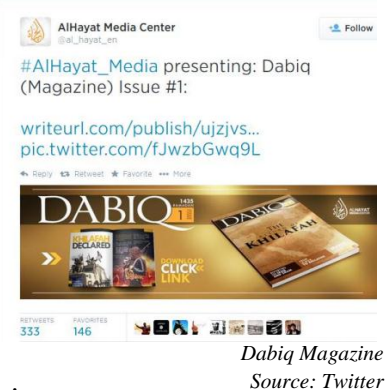
Supporters of the Islamic State stressed the importance and historic significance of the Grand Mosque where al-Baghdadi delivered his sermon; they also celebrated his appearance with numerous tweets and postings on jihadist forums praising his decision to make a public appearance in spite of the possibility of a drone attack. By the afternoon of 7 July, al-Baghdadi's video had been viewed over 1,300,000 times on YouTube.

In response to the video, opponents of IS mocked al-Baghdadi for wearing a black turban similar to the prominent Shia scholars, for his controversial wrist watch, and for his lack of charisma.

ISIS Launches New English-Language Magazine (Arabic/English)

On 5 July 2014, the Islamic State launched a new English-language magazine called *Dabiq*. The magazine shares its name with a city in the province of Aleppo, Syria. It is published by the Islamic State's al-Hayat Media Center and was posted to its Twitter account. In the inaugural issue, the magazine promoted the Islamic State's establishment of the Islamic Caliphate.

According to the introduction, *Dabiq* is a periodical magazine focusing on the issues of monotheism, methodology, migration to the battle field, jihad, and the Muslim community. The 50-page issue includes articles on recent speeches about the Caliphate made by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Abu Mohammad al-Adnani and pictures of celebrations and attacks in Iraq and Syria. The featured article discusses the new Islamic State and compares the actions of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to those of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.



British Student Accused of Attempting to Smuggle Money to Syrian Rebels (English)

On 8 July 2014, the trial continued of a British student accused of attempting to smuggle money to jihadist rebels in Syria. On 16 January 2014, police found 20,000 euros (\$27,200) in the possession of passenger Nawal Msaad, a human resources student at London Metropolitan University, after she tried to board a flight to Turkey. Msaad, 26, allegedly was recruited by her friend Amal El-Wahabi, 27, to take the money to El-Wahabi's husband, who was fighting alongside jihadist groups in Syria. Msaad was promised a reward of approximately 1,000 euros (\$1,400) if she successfully smuggled the money to an intermediary in Istanbul, Turkey.



Nawal Msaad
Source: The Guardian



After she was detained at the airport, Msaad told officers she was going to Turkey for a short break and planned to buy gold for her mother while she was there. Counter-terrorism officers brought Msaad to a private room where she removed the currency from her underclothes. Some of the money had been hidden inside her body.

Counter-terrorism officers arrested El-Wahabi at her home in London, England. Inside her residence, authorities discovered extremist material that "indicated support for the violent jihadist cause." Detectives also found audio recordings of speeches made by radical clerics Anwar al-Awlaki and Abu Hamza as well as videos featuring Osama Bin Laden and celebrating martyrs and violent jihadists in Somalia. At her sister's residence, detectives found various jihadist materials, including a video showing roadside bombings and glorifying the actions of mujahedeen militants.

Graffiti Leads to Discovery of Gang Members at Border Patrol Processing Center (English)

On 8 July 2014, officials discovered gang-related graffiti on the walls of the Nogales Border Patrol processing center (NPC) in Nogales, Arizona. After the discovery, 16 unaccompanied children (13 El Salvadoran males, two Guatemalan males, and one Honduran male) currently being held at the NPC reportedly admitted to being members of the violent gang *Mara Salvatrucha*, or MS-13.



MS-13 Gang Member
Source: Townhall

MS-13 is involved in several types of violent activities including assaults and homicides using weapons such as firearms, machetes, and blunt objects. The group aims to intimidate rival gangs, law enforcement, and the general public. They often target middle and high school students for recruitment.

Russian Jihadist Group Releases Next Two Installments in Instructional Video Series (Russian/English)

This week, the Russian jihadist website "IslamDin" released the second and third installments in its instructional video series, *"Lessons on Jihad for New Recruits."* The second installment, titled *"Lesson 2: Organization of Battle Groups/Sectors,"* provides instructions on the organization of battle groups and the key to their success. The third installment, titled *"Lesson 3: Maps, Part 1,"* provides an introduction to map reading. Each video is 16 minutes in length.

"Lesson 2" provides insight into the organization of jihadist groups and their tactical ideas. The instructor, Abu Husseifa al-Hurasani, gives a thorough description of the organizational structure of jihadist groups in the



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Caucasus region. However, the tactics described could be used by jihadist organizations in other areas of the world. Al-Hurasani stresses the importance of proper organization and the discreet flow of information. According to him,

"Now is the time when mujahedeen can organize big groups. Even the small groups can grow and join larger groups and begin attacks on cities. We will probably see, very soon, a takeover of Russian cities. Let Allah help our brothers and I hope these lessons will help them too."



Al-Hurasani then describes the structural system currently in place. According to him, each region has a main Ameer, or a leader. The region is then split into sectors that are each led by an Ameer. The sectors are further split into smaller areas which also have their own Ameer. Al-Hurasani points out that it is important for Ameers to be educated in war studies in order to lead their groups successfully. He then lists several of the qualities of an effective Ameer:

"Area knowledge is of huge importance to the Ameer in order to organize a successful group. [An] Ameer needs to know how many people are in his area of responsibility, how many people follow Islam, how many are mujahedeen, where are the water sources, which part of land is dry. In short, [an] Ameer must know absolutely everything about his area."

In order to guarantee the stability of the group, al-Hurasani states that each Ameer should have a primary assistant and recommends that the primary assistant also have his own, secondary assistant. Both assistants must be as familiar with the region and the mission as the Ameer.

In "Lesson 3," al-Hurasani discusses the basic principles of using and understanding maps. He illustrates North, South, East, and West and how to find your location using a compass, the stars, or the sun. He also describes a low mountain and a steep mountain and how to differentiate between the two. Al-Hurasani then discusses various symbols commonly used on maps to convey features such as rivers, forested areas, train tracks, and roads. He is clearly knowledgeable about cartography but presents the lesson in a simplistic manner in order to appeal to a less educated or less knowledgeable audience.



In each of the three videos in the series, the instructor attempts to hide his identity by disguising his voice and covering his face. Each video has been released approximately one week after the previous installment. For a review of the first installment in the series, please click [here](#).